

1. (Currently amended) An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information received from the network, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, and ~~a serial~~ an RS-232 port for coupling the second information to the network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 further including an RF section for processing signals received from the CATV network.

4. (Original) The instrument of claim 3 further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, the A/D converter coupled to the RF section for conversion of RF section output into digital RF-related signals.

5. (Original) The instrument of claim 4 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing of the digital RF-related signals.

6. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the first information is first analog information, the instrument further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter for converting the first analog information to first digital information.

7. (Original) The instrument of claim 6 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing the first digital information.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The instrument of claim 1 further including~~ An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information received from the network, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, a serial port for coupling the second information to the network, and an audio transducer coupled to the computer for producing audio signals in response to third information received from the computer.

9. (Original) The instrument of claim 8 further including a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter coupled between the computer and the audio transducer for converting the third information into signals to be transduced by the audio transducer.

10. (Original) The instrument of claim 9 further including a digital signal processor (DSP) coupled to the computer and to the D/A converter for processing third information and for supplying processed third information to the D/A converter.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The instrument of claim 1 further including~~ An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information received from the network, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, a serial port for coupling the second information to the network, and a signature pad coupled to the serial port permitting transmission of signature pad-related signals over the network

12. (Original) The instrument of claim 11 wherein the signature pad is coupled to the serial port through the computer.

13. (Original) An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information, a signature pad permitting a user to enter handwritten communication for transmission over the network, and a port for coupling handwritten communication-related signals to the network.

14. (Currently amended) The instrument of claim 13 wherein the first information ~~is~~ is first radio frequency (RF) analog information, the instrument further including an RF section coupled to the input port for processing the first information.

15. (Original) The instrument of claim 14 further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, the A/D converter coupled to the RF section for conversion of RF section output into digital RF-related signals.

16. (Original) The instrument of claim 15 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing of the digital RF-related signals.

17. (Original) The instrument of claim 13 wherein the first information is first analog information, the instrument further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter for converting the first analog information to first digital information.

18. (Original) The instrument of claim 17 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing the first digital information.

19. (Original) The instrument of claim 13 further including an audio transducer coupled to the computer for producing audio signals in response to third information received from the computer.

20. (Original) The instrument of claim 19 further including a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter coupled between the computer and the audio transducer for

converting the third information into signals to be transduced by the audio transducer.

21. (Original) The instrument of claim 20 further including a digital signal processor (DSP) coupled to the computer and to the D/A converter for processing third information and for supplying processed third information to the D/A converter.

22. (Original) The instrument of claim 13 wherein the port includes a serial port.

23. (Original) The instrument of claim 22 wherein the port includes an RS-232 port.

24. (Original) The instrument of claim 22 wherein the port includes an ethernet interface.

25. (Original) An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, and an ethernet interface for coupling the second information to the network.

26. (Original) The instrument of claim 25 including a Web browser capable of handling internet communication protocols.

27. (Currently amended) The instrument of claim 25 further including An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, an ethernet interface for coupling the second information to the network, and a signature pad coupled to the serial-port ethernet interface permitting transmission of signature pad-related signals over the network

28. (Currently amended) The instrument of claim 27 wherein the signature pad is coupled to the ~~serial-port~~ ethernet interface through the computer.

29. (Original) The instrument of claim 25 wherein the first information is first analog information, the instrument further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter for converting the first analog information to first digital information.

30. (Original) The instrument of claim 29 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing the first digital information.

31. (Currently amended) The instrument of claim 25 wherein the first information ~~if~~ is first radio frequency (RF) analog information, the instrument further

including an RF section coupled to the input port for processing the first information.

32. (Original) The instrument of claim 31 further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, the A/D converter coupled to the RF section for conversion of RF section output into digital RF-related signals.

33. (Original) The instrument of claim 32 further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing of the digital RF-related signals.

34. (Currently amended) ~~The instrument of claim 1 including~~ An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information received from the network, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, a serial port for coupling the second information to the network, and a Web browser capable of handling internet communication protocols.

35. (Original) The instrument of claim 13 including a Web browser capable of handling internet communication protocols.

36. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the input port and output port are RF ports.

37. (Original) The instrument of claim 13 wherein the input port and output port are RF ports.

38. (Original) The instrument of claim 25 wherein the input port and output port are RF ports.

39-41. (cancelled)